STATE

DT 4/30/93

Hate toward gays on rise at CU, task force reports

Albino: CU president receives death threats before making a speech at gay symposium.

Associated Press

BOULDER — An atmosphere of hate toward homosexuals has invaded the University of Colorado, where even President Judith Albino received a death threat over a gay-rights speech, a new study shows.

The situation is so critical that CU should implement a code imposing sanctions on those found guilty of harassing gay students, faculty or staff, concluded the study released Wednesday by the Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues.

The task force began meeting in February 1992 after CU football coach Bill McCartney stirred up controversy by call-

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Campus/CU investigation described as 'eye-opener'

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ng homosexuality "an abomination of almighty God."

One of the more serious incidents uncovered by the group occurred last year when a "soldier of God" claimed Alpino would be murdered if she spoke at a gay-and-lesbian studies conference. Alpino went ahead with the address, wearing a bulletproof vest, said CU spokesman David Grimm.

The task force's investigation was "a tremendous eye-opener," said Gene Nichol, CU Law School dean and task force chairman.

"It's no longer possible to allege that the atmosphere for gays, lesbians and bisexuals is unproblematic on this campus," he said.

"I wish all members of the community could hear the testimony we heard, frequently given in confidentiality, under the fear of reprisal," he said. "I didn't realize the depth of these difficulties."

The group, composed of students, staff and faculty members, met at least twice a month, sometimes more often, to take testimony from 50 witnesses.

They heard about harassment of homosexual dormitory residents; verbal and physical abuse, including bomb and death threats; anti-gay graffiti, fraternity proclamations of "No Fags Allowed" and discrimination against students and employees.

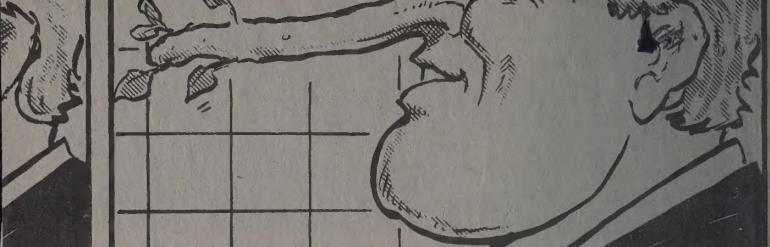
CU-Boulder Chancellor James Corbridge reported receiving an expletive-laced message that called him a "traitor" for allegedly catering to blacks and homosexuals, the task force said.

In the past year, CU police recorded 12 serious intimidation or harassment incidents. The task force concluded that such incidents are "massively underreported."

The group suggested CU officials make it easier for homosexuals to report abuse with more support services and establishment of a safe social area for homosexuals.

Corbridge wants to enact some of the recommended changes by the fall, but said he is concerned about the conflicts between a harassment code and freedom-of-speech rights.

"We need to put together a policy that will stand up to court scrutiny," he said.



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Wouldn't it be great if all motorists painted on their window, "In your honor, Carmine, I'll obey traffic laws"?

The shooting on I-25 last week is a symbol of what, I suspect, many motorists have felt when cut-off, or tailgated, or nearly hit in an intersection. Fortunately for us, we've not been pushed to the point of mortal violence, yet nearly 50,000 Americans die each year in traffic crashes. While most don't get the attention that Carmine's got, are they any less tragic?

Therefore, I make this vow, "Carmine, in your memory, I'll obey our traffic laws." Anyone care to join me?

— **W. Bernard Herpin Jr.**
Colorado Springs

Beware of '90s McCarthyism

That's it, I cannot hold it in any longer! I am a born-again Christian who believes the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God. Evidently that